

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 06029 260411Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 EB-08 AGRE-00 TRSE-00 COME-00
IO-13 HA-05 /075 W
-----057829 270027Z /20
R 260330Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9245
INFO USICA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINR, SCUL, SOPN, AF
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON THE MINISTER OF RADIO AND TELEVISION

1. MY COURTESY CALL ON THE MINISTER OF RADIO AND TELEVISION, SULEIMAN LAEQ, RESULTED IN A CORDIAL MEETING OF HOUR'S DURATION. THE MINISTER MADE SEVERAL POINTS OF POLITICAL INTEREST AND RAISED SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT AMERICAN ASSISTANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFGHAN TELEVISION.

2. AT THE OUTSET I REITERATED OUR SUPPORT OF AFGHAN INDEPENDENCE, RESPECT FOR ITS POSITION OF NON-ALIGNMENT, AND WILLINGNESS TO HELP CONSISTENT WITH OUR OWN LEGISLATIVE GUIDELINES IN THE COUNTRY'S EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF ITS PEOPLE. MINISTER LAEQ LISTENED ATTENTIVELY TO MY ASSURANCES OF GOOD WILL AND REPEATED THE FAMILIAR STATEMENT THAT DRA WANTS TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES. AMERICA IS AN IMPORTANT COUNTRY, HE SAID, MUCH ADVANCED IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER AREAS VALUABLE TO NEEDY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND AMERICAN HELP IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A POOR COUNTRY LIKE AFGHANISTAN.

3. THE MINISTER TOOK PAINS TO EXPRESS HIMSELF CLEARLY AND POINTEDLY ON THE SUBJECT OF NON-ALIGNMENT AND LINKED DRA POLICY UNEQUIVOCALLY
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PAGE 02 KABUL 06029 260411Z

TO THE PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE. CITING EXAMPLE OF ANOTHER WESTERN COUNTRY, HE SAID THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES SHOULDN'T CRITICIZE AFGHANISTAN FOR TURNING TO THE EAST FOR ASSISTANCE IN AREAS WHERE THEY (THE WEST) DECLINE TO PROVIDE IT. THE WEST CANNOT JUSTLY DOUBT AFGHANISTAN'S INTENTIONS IF IT DOES NOT OFFER NEEDED HELP.

4. REGARDING WORK OF HIS MINISTRY, THE MINISTER DESCRIBED ITS

ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT AS A MOST IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL ONE. HE ASKED FOR FILMS ON SCIENCE, SPORTS, AGRICULTURE AND OTHER NON-POLITICAL SUBJECTS AND FOR ASSISTANCE IN TRAINING; HE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED HELP IN GETTING SOME OLD FILM PROCESSING EQUIPMENT RUNNING THAT THE USG HAD GIVEN AFGHANISTAN YEARS AGO. ALLUDING TO RECENT ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR ICA TO PROVIDE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING FOR MINISTRY STAFF, INCLUDING HIMSELF, THE MINISTER OBSERVED CANIDLY THAT THIS DEMONSTRATED AFGHAN IMPARTIALITY. PAO, WHO ACCOMPANIED ME, DESCRIBED FILMS THAT HAD BEEN OR COULD BE PROVIDED FOR AFGHAN TV, AND WE EXPRESSED OUR WILLINGNESS TO EXPLORE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND LOOK INTO THE EQUIPMENT PROBLEM WITH THE MINISTRY'S TECHNICAL STAFF.
DUBS

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 26 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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